

1. USSR Issues Statement on Cuba

The first official Soviet pronouncements on the Cuban situation foreshadow a massive propaganda and diplomatic campaign to mobilize world opinion against the US and generate alarm over the consequences of the fighting in Cuba. While the Soviet leaders will not hesitate to make maximum political capital from Cuban developments, neither Khrushchev's letter to the President nor the official government statement goes beyond the general warning that "we will extend to the Cuban people and its government all the necessary aid for the repulse of the armed attack on Cuba." Khrushchev's letter, however, implicitly links the Cuban situation to Laos by warning that "in general it is impossible to carry on affairs in such a way that in one area the situation is settled and the fire is put out and in

another area a new fire is lit."

Although the Soviet leaders probably will be careful to avoid any commitments to specific counteraction in Cuba, Khrushchev's letter suggests that Moscow may continue to stall on cease-fire arrangements in Laos and may sanction increased military pressure against the Vientiane government. The Soviet Government statement, appealing to all UN members to "render all necessary aid" to Cuba and demanding that the UN General Assembly urgently study the "aggressive actions" of the US, was followed by the Soviet resolution along the same lines presented in the UN yesterday evening.

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